

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. KEVIN BRADY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 28, 2021

Mr. BRADY. Madam Speaker, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall No. 338.

RECOGNIZING SERGEANT WILLIAM "BILL" HENRY, RECIPIENT OF TEXAS' THIRD CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 2021 CONGRESSIONAL VETERAN COMMENDATION

HON. VAN TAYLOR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 28, 2021

Mr. TAYLOR. Madam Speaker, today, it is my privilege to honor fifteen distinguished military veterans from Texas' Third Congressional District who answered the call to serve their Nation honorably, both in uniform and following their return to civilian life. The recipients of the 2021 Congressional Veteran Commendation exemplify the time-honored qualities of patriotism, service before self, and bold leadership. Following their time in service, their efforts in our community have earned these fine individuals recognition as the recipients of this prestigious commendation. Their stories of sacrifice will encourage future generations to pursue a life dedicated to the very values we cherish as Americans: faith, freedom, and democracy. One such hero is Sergeant William "Bill" Henry of Wylie, Texas.

Drafted into the U.S. Army in 1952, Bill Henry was trained as a Combat Radio Relay Operator. While stationed in Korea, Sergeant Henry controlled an Artillery Battery, radioing coordinates for artillery shells to be discharged at enemy targets. Bill ended his active duty service in 1954, but would complete eight years in the Army Reserves prior to his final discharge. Sergeant Henry credits his time on the front lines with preparing him for a successful career in electronics and computers following the war.

For his service, Sergeant Henry was awarded the Korean Service Medal, two Bronze Stars, United Nations Service Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Sharpshooter Badge, and Good Conduct Medal.

Following his time in service, Bill returned home and married the love of his life, the late Jane Donovan Henry. Together they raised six children. Bill's commitment to his community is evidenced by his 72-year tenure in the Knights of Columbus where he has held almost every single office including that of Grand Knight. Bill maintains a deep passion for supporting our veterans and he has done so through the Wheelchair Mission which supplies wheelchairs to our veterans at the VA Medical Centers in Bonham and Dallas, Texas. Additionally, Sergeant Henry was instrumental in establishing the American Legion Hale-Combest Post 315 in Wylie where he held the position of Judge Advocate.

Even at 91 years old, Mr. Henry has not slowed his efforts to serve his community. Love of God, family, and country, and a life dedicated to service sum up the character of

Sergeant Henry whom we applaud for his longtime commitment to America and our community.

Today a grateful Nation thanks Sergeant Henry, for his exceptional service and congratulates him on this recognition. May his steadfast example of leadership inspire others to live a life of service to a cause greater than themselves. It is my extreme honor to award him the 2021 Congressional Veteran Commendation for the Third District of Texas.

RECOGNIZING THE VETERANS AIRLIFT COMMAND

HON. JAY OBERNOLTE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 28, 2021

Mr. OBERNOLTE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding service of the Veteran Airlift Command, an organization which I've volunteered with for many years that has a dedicated network of volunteers working to support our nation's wounded warriors across the country.

The Veteran Airlift Command, founded by Vietnam War veteran Walter Fricke, has impacted the lives of countless wounded veterans by providing them and their families air transportation when they desperately need it. After being wounded while serving as a helicopter pilot in Vietnam, Walter, like countless other wounded veterans, had to face the challenges presented by everyday civilian life. He realized that despite commercial air travel constituting one of the most essential aspects of modern life, it was among the most inaccessible, especially for our wounded veterans.

As a military trained pilot with over 800 hours of combat flying, Walter was well equipped to remedy this issue. He had an idea for a national organization of volunteer pilots and aircraft that would fly wounded warriors and their families with dignity, respect, and gratitude, and so in 2006 he founded the Veteran Airlift Command.

Walter started the Veterans Airlift Command with his own personal finances, flying expertise, and aircraft, but today the Veterans Airlift Command has grown into substantial program that boasts a volunteer core of over 2,600 volunteer pilots and aircraft with over 18,000 passengers successfully flown.

The VAC has been and will continue to be an incredible and essential lifeline for wounded veterans and their families. Thanks to their work and that of thousands of volunteer pilots across the country, we can give back to our nation's wounded warriors and provide the dignity, respect, and comfort that our heroes deserve. I am honored to recognize the VAC today and proud to have the opportunity to volunteer with this organization and give back to those who have sacrificed part of themselves in the defense of this Nation.

FIT THEOREM

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 28, 2021

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Fit Theorem of Northglenn,

Colorado for earning the City of Northglenn's People's Choice Award.

The People's Choice Award recognizes a Northglenn business for their customer service and customer satisfaction within the community. Fit Theorem is known for being one of Colorado's premier kickboxing studios. Their mission is to improve the lives of clients by making them healthier in both mind and body. With several locations across the state and country, Northglenn is lucky to have one of their studios in our community. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the team at Fit Theorem moved many of their classes on line and continue to bring fitness and fun to people during a difficult time.

Congratulations again to Fit Theorem for this accomplishment, and I wish them all the best in the future. I thank them for their contribution to our community.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF PASTOR JEREMY DAVID SMITH

HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 28, 2021

Mr. WITTMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in remembrance of Pastor Jeremy David Smith. Jeremy spent over 20 years as a leader and minister in local churches. He strove to create a family environment that shared both the challenging and celebratory times with the members of the church.

Pastor Jeremy was devout to his congregation and he was dedicated to continue Sunday Worship throughout the pandemic. He held outside services and worked to ensure the safe and comfortable experience for all members of the church, especially caring for the older members so they would be able to attend, experience, and hear the Word of God, no matter what.

David is survived by his wife, Audra Smith; children, Nicholas, Logan, Katiana, Kalista, and Korinna Smith. Madam. Speaker, I ask that you extend your thoughts and prayers to Jeremy's family and friends as they mourn the loss of their loved one. I pray that God is with Jeremy's family and friends during this difficult time.

IN RECOGNITION OF LARKIN V. "PETE" BOWEN'S 100TH BIRTHDAY

HON. NEAL P. DUNN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 28, 2021

Mr. DUNN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate a member of our Greatest Generation and Florida's Second Congressional District, Larkin V. "Pete" Bowen of Marianna, Florida.

Born October 24, 1921, Mr. Bowen moved to Wewahatchka, Florida with his family in 1941 to build a new life.

Like so many in the Panhandle during that time, he found work anywhere he could.

In 1943, Mr. Bowen started working for the State Road Department, now the Florida Department of Transportation, in Jackson County as a road crew guard.